

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

**Date:** August 14, 2006

**To:** Cynthia Ruiz, President  
Board of Public Works

**Copies:** BPW Commissioners, Jim Gibson, Teri Schmidt, PAO, OCB

**From:** Paul Racs, Director  
Office of Community Beautification

**Re:** OCB FISCAL YEAR STATS ... 2005-06

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The period on July 2005 to June 2006 was one of much challenge and increased workloads for the Office of Community Beautification. Those challenges were met by the staff and the community based organizations under contract with OCB, as documented below. Highlights of the year include support for Mayor Villaraigosa's citywide Day of Service and Big Sunday; implementation of the UNTAG graffiti abatement strike force teams; upgrading Q-Star surveillance cameras from battery power to solar power; and having the Board of Public Works honor 100 recipients of the Community Beautification Grant.

For fiscal year 2005-06, the Office of Community Beautification provided the following services to the residents of Los Angeles. Attached to this memo are breakdowns of OCB stats by Council District, which provide insight into what parts of the City utilize our program and a comparison of stats over the past ten years. Please let me know if there are any questions or comments regarding OCB operations.

#### **Volunteer Projects**

***OCB assists and supports community residents with organizing neighborhood-based beautification and clean-up events. OCB loans tools and supplies, provides logistical support through the use of Public Works vehicles and trash bins, and coordinates the involvement of LACC Clean and Green or the local OCB contractor. Compared to the previous year, OCB supported a 9% increase in the number of community projects, and a 7% increase in the number of community volunteers.***

- Coordinated 203 community based beautification projects, involving 25,919 volunteers, who provided 112,867 volunteer hours to cleaning and beautifying their neighborhoods.
- Volunteers collected 64,732 bags of litter, weeds, and debris from the public right-of-way, and utilized 3,137 gallons of paint to cover over graffiti marred walls.
- OCB staff attended 544 community meetings to discuss services and support of OCB and the Department of Public Works.

#### **Community Beautification Contractors**

***OCB contracts with 16 community based, non-profit agencies geographically spread throughout Los Angeles. Contractors proactively remove graffiti from major corridors, and respond to requests for service via 3-1-1, OCB, Council Offices, or the Mayor's Office. Contractors also provide litter and weed abatement service. Compared to the previous year, OCB contractors provided an 8% increase in the amount of square footage of graffiti removed from 9% more locations. There was an 8.5% increase in the number of service requests for OCB. OCB staff monitors the work of the contractors on a weekly basis to ensure timely and quality removal. The program provides jobs and training for difficult to employ youth and adults.***

- Contractors responded to 53,367 requests for service from the community.
- Contractors removed 25,974,661 square feet of graffiti from 489,656 locations.
- Contractors collected 116,537 bags of litter, weeds, and debris from the public right-of-way.
- OCB staff monitored 2,493 corridors for a total of 5,703 miles.

### **Community Beautification Grant**

***OCB provides cash grants of \$250 to \$10,000 to support hardscape community beautification projects. Grants are matched by the community and fall into one of the following categories: 1. Arts Projects; 2. Greening Projects; 3. Pedestrian Projects; 4. Hardscape Projects; 5. School Based Projects.***

- OCB conducted 26 General Information workshops regarding the grant program, reaching an estimated 349 individuals.
- OCB funded 102 Community Beautification Grant projects.
- 85 Grant projects were completed during this period.

### **Educational Outreach Program**

***OCB provides an elementary school based curriculum, focusing on community pride, neighborhood beautification, clean-up, and the negative effects of graffiti.***

- OCB coordinated 197 school presentations to 168 LAUSD elementary schools classes, reaching 24,960 students.

### **Business Improvement District Support**

***OCB works closely with numerous Business Improvement Districts, and provides supplies to support their clean-up and beautification efforts.***

- OCB provided 582,720 trash bags to BID's.
- OCB provided 764 gallons of paint to BID's for graffiti abatement.

### **Court Related Items**

***OCB works closely with the offices of the District Attorney, City Attorney, and LAPD to provide information and expert testimony useful in prosecuting graffiti related cases.***

- OCB provided 69 graffiti abatement cost invoices requested by LAPD.
- OCB provided 58 graffiti abatement cost invoices requested by the City Attorneys Office.
- OCB provided 33 graffiti abatement cost invoices requested by the District Attorneys Office.
- OCB staff appeared in court as an expert witness 25 times.

### **Nuisance Alley Program**

***Though the Nuisance Alley Closure Program was discontinued in 2004-05, OCB still maintains records and paperwork for the 1,100 alleys that were gated from 1993 to 2004. The Bureau of Street Services is now responsible for maintaining and repairing the existing gates. OCB works closely with BSS and serves as the administrator of documents and the point of contact for residents with issues related to alley closures.***

- OCB processed 371 requests for service on existing gates.
- OCB processed 101 requests for replacement of keys for existing gates.
- OCB followed up on 13 petitions for alley closure, informing the community that the program has been discontinued due to budgetary reasons.